CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

A computer system, comprising:

2	a processor;
3 .	at least one input/output device coupled to said processor;
4	a flashable ROM device coupled to said processor and containing a configuration table; and
5	a non-volatile, non-flashable memory device coupled to said processor and containing a
6	extension configuration table;
7	wherein configuration information can be added to the computer system by storing such
8	configuration information in the non-volatile, non flashable memory device.
1	2. The computer system of claim 1 wherein, upon executing a set-up routine to configure the
2	computer system for a newly installed device, said processor examines the flashable ROM device
3	to determine whether configuration information pertaining to the newly installed device is present
4	and, if not, said processor then examines the non-volatile, non-flashable memory device to
5	determine whether the configuration information pertaining to the newly installed device is
6	present.

The computer system of claim 2 wherein said non-volatile, non-flashable memory device

comprises a non-volatile RAM device.

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- 1 4. The computer system of claim 2 wherein said configuration table and said extension
- 2 configuration table include a plurality of entries with each entry including an option identifier and
- 3 corresponding configuration data.
- 1 5. The computer system of claim 4 wherein each option identifier and corresponding
- 2 configuration data pertain to a circuit board.
- 1 6. The computer system of claim 2 wherein said configuration table includes a plurality of
- 2 entries with each entry including a board identifier and corresponding configuration data.
- 1 7. The computer system of claim 6 wherein said extension configuration table includes
- 2 storage capacity for a plurality of entries that include a board identifier and corresponding
- 3 configuration data.
- 1 8. A method of configuring a computer, comprising:
- 2 adding a device to the computer;
- 3 first searching a ROM memory in which configuration information is stored for the
- 4 configuration information pertaining to the added device; and
- 5 then, if the configuration is not found in the ROM memory, searching a non-volatile RAM
- 6 memory for the configuration information.
- 1 9. The method of claim 8 further including:
- 2 flashing the ROM memory; and

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,	determining whether any charles in the ROW memory duplicate charles in the non-volatile
4	RAM memory; and
5	if one or more duplicates are found, clearing the one or more duplicate entries from the
6	non-volatile RAM memory.
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1	10. The method of claim 9 wherein the configuration information includes circuit board
2	identifiers and corresponding configuration data.
1	11. The method of claim 9 wherein the configuration information includes operating system
2	data.
1	12. The method of claim 8 further including storing configuration information in said non-
2	volatile RAM memory instead of in the ROM memory when said device is added to the computer.
1	13. A method of flashing a ROM containing configuration information with a new set of
2	configuration information in a computer system also including an NVRAM which contains an
3	extension table having storage for configuration information, wherein new configuration is added
4	to the NVRAM extension table instead of the ROM, said method comprising:
5	comparing entries in the new set of configuration information to be stored in the ROM
6	against entries in the extension table in the NVRAM;
7	if a matching pair of entries is found, deleting the corresponding entry from the NVRAM;
8 .	and
9	storing the new set of configuration information in the ROM.

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- 1 14. The method of claim 13 wherein the configuration information comprises board identifiers
- 2 and corresponding configuration data.